In 2021, approximately 8.3 million people in South Sudan need some form of humanitarian assistance, nearly 70 percent of the population, of which 108,000 people are in IPC Phase 5 Catastrophe. This steep increase in needs across the country is a result of multiple compounding factors, including continued subnational conflict, climatic shocks and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Subnational conflict persists, and conflict dynamics remain volatile. In 2021, insecurity has disrupted WFP operations in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Jonglei, Warrap, Upper Nile, Eastern Equatoria, and Western Equatoria. Frequent roadside robberies, ambushes and attacks continue to affect supply chain routes.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present serious risks to an already fragile situation, threatening to further exacerbate acute food insecurity, particularly for market-reliant populations. South Sudan has had a total of 16,810 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 137 deaths.

To respond to increased needs and align with the next United Nations Cooperation Framework in South Sudan, the 2018-2021 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) has been extended to 2022.

More than 835,000 people have been affected by flooding with almost half of all 78 counties impacted since May. 2021 is the third consecutive year of unprecedented flooding, which has led to displacement, loss of livelihoods, and increased reliance on humanitarian assistance. The tributaries that flow into the Sudd/the Nile are bursting and areas of the country not previously flooded are now flooded. Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states remain the worst impacted by the devastating floods. WFP has responded to 598,957 flood-affected individuals with general food distribution and preventative nutrition assistance for the first round of distributions (in October/November/December 2021).

Persistent violence continues to create instability and impede humanitarian access, potentially undermining local peace efforts. Tensions remain in Tonj East, Warrap State, between Marial Lou (Tonj North County) and Paliang (Tonj East County) payams. In Jonglei, continued reports of tensions continue to threaten ongoing efforts to support peace and reconciliation efforts between and within Bor Dinka, Lou and Gawaar Nuer, and Murle communities.

While delivering food to support the flood response, a WFP convoy in Duk County was ambushed on 19 December and the driver was killed. This latest incident of violence against humanitarians has increased perceptions of reduced security in the state. Ongoing dialogue between community authority structures continued in Pibor from 17 – 20 December, where the importance of ensuring safety of humanitarian access was acknowledged on all sides.

Preliminary results of the latest food security assessment analysis indicate a substantial increase in the severity and magnitude of food insecurity in 2022, with 8.4 million people projected to be severely food insecure at the peak of the lean season – the worst figure on record since independence in 2011.

Food and Nutrition

In December, WFP and partners provided food and nutrition assistance to 1.83 million people (out of 1.79 million planned, 102 percent) with a total of 14,137 mt of food and USD 1.48 million in cash-based transfers (CBT). WFP surpassed the target due to increase in number of people in need as a result of floods.

In the six IPC Phase 5 risk counties of Akobo, Aweil South, Pibor, Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South, WFP and partners reached 221,523 people (out of 217,545 planned) with food and nutrition assistance for December distributions.

To support the flood response, 276,933 flood-affected people were reached in December with food assistance.
Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure people in crisis-affected areas have access to safe and nutritious food all year round.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**
- Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations.
- Provide food and nutrition assistance to refugees

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: People at risk of malnutrition in crisis-affected areas, especially young children and pregnant and lactating women, are able to meet their basic nutrition requirements all year round.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**
- Provide nutrition assistance to populations at risk of malnutrition

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and Income

Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in non-conflict zones have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to seasonal climate shocks throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Resilience building

**Activities:**
- Provide livelihood support and build the resilience of rural households
- Provision of infrastructure development services for humanitarian access and community

Strategic Result 8: Global Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 4: The humanitarian community in South Sudan has access to reliable common services until satisfactory alternatives are available.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**
- Operate Air Services for the Humanitarian Community
- Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in Support of the Humanitarian Community
- Supply Chain provision
- Inter-Agency IT Communication Service
- SCOPE Service to humanitarian partners
- Provision of IT services to the humanitarian community
- Provision of infrastructure development services

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**Donors (listed alphabetically)**
- Canada, Estonia, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, UN COUNTRY BASED POOLED FUNDS, UN Other Funds and Agencies, United Kingdom, USA

*Excluding multilateral and private donors

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**Safety Nets and Resilience**

- In December, WFP reached **159,841 people** in IPC Phase 3+ counties through food assistance for assets (FFA) programme, including 18,399 people in IPC Phase 5.
- Through **Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS)**, in collaboration with Pinnacle/GrainPro, WFP provided **five coconuts** of 100 -150 mt storage capacity to five farmer organizations. WFP also trained 21 **WFP and partner staff and farmers** on the utilization of the provided storage coconos to improve crop storage in Magwi, Eastern Equatoria, and Yambio, Western Equatoria. Over 4,300 smallholder farmers, 60 percent of which are women, will benefit from this assistance, which is part of WFP’s strategy to support farming communities to improve crop storage and access to quality-oriented markets, including WFP food procurement. Last year, WFP procured **350 mt** of maize directly from smallholder farmers through flexible contract modalities.
- Through the **Urban Safety Nets (USN) programme**, WFP continued to support **96,500 people** with CBT when participating in various activities. A total of **465 individuals** received skills building and vocational training opportunities this year in Juba, Wau and Rumbek, which offer opportunities for the youth to create self-employment or employment into better jobs. In Egypt Academy in Juba, **39 females** and **19 males** enrolled in General Electricity, Hair Dressing and Tailoring courses from August 2021 and all of them completed technical trainings in December 2021

**Supply Chain**

- By the end of December **313,893 mt** of food had been brought into the country in 2021 operation, representing **75 percent** of the 415,000 mt needs-based plan requirements to provide full rations in 2021.
- The 2022 prepositioning window is now open, and WFP is urgently appealing for early contributions which will allow prepositioning of food to hard-to-reach locations before the rainy season.
- Despite the flooding in Unity State, WFP continued efforts to keep access open to support vital food deliveries through building dykes, ramps over dykes, and using water pumps. For areas that are no longer accessible by Fleet Trucks, WFP used a combination of SHERPs and local canoes/light boats to ensure food was delivered closer to the people in need.

**Common Services**

- In December, UNHAS transported **5,814 passengers** and **261 mt** of light humanitarian cargo across South Sudan.
- UNHAS continued to support the COVID-19 response in facilitating the delivery of **eight mt** of COVID-19 vaccines and medical equipment to **29 destinations** on behalf of UNICEF.
- The Logistics Cluster transported a total of **739 mt** of humanitarian cargo on behalf of **80 organizations** to **65 locations**. **49 percent** of this cargo was transported by road or river.

**Challenges**

- The humanitarian needs in South Sudan are growing exponentially due to a third year of unprecedented flooding and recurring conflict and violence, which has led to new and multiple population displacements and an increase in people in need. Resources are stretched thin, and WFP is having to re-prioritize its response to support newly displaced people, particularly due to flooding. Due to limited resources, WFP has been providing reduced rations in order to support more people in need, including providing 50 percent rations to 80 percent of WFP beneficiaries.